

**REMARKS**

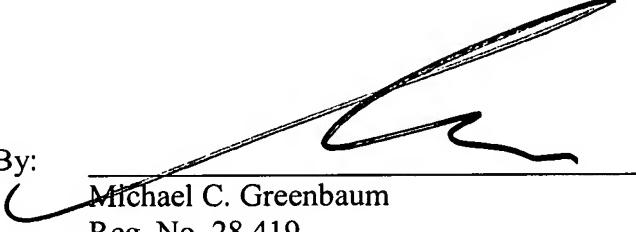
On October 31, 2007, the Patent Office issued a Notice of Abandonment in the above-identified application. According to the Notice of Abandonment, the Applicants failed to file a response to the outstanding Office Action by the due date.

However, on October 19, 2007, Applicants timely filed a response to the Office Action dated April 19, 2007. A copy of the date stamped filing receipt and a copy of the response are provided herewith. On November 6, 2007, after Applicants' representative received the Notice of Abandonment, Applicants' representative contacted Examiner Manuel to explain that a response had been filed. On November 8, 2007, Examiner Manuel indicated that he would issue a new Office Action and would withdraw the Notice of Abandonment.<sup>1</sup>

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MCG/KPB/rc

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<sup>1</sup> This paper summarizes the discussions Applicants' representative had with Examiner Manuel on November 6 and 8, 2007 regarding the Notice of Abandonment.